

AUDIENCE WARMS TO RAFFLES

Kyrle Bellow and His Fine
Company Meet Unusual
Success.

Notes of the Attractions Com-
ing to the Local
Theatres.

The heart of Seattle warmed to Kyrle Bellow last evening as it has seldom warmed to any actor that has come into the community. Burglar though he was, he was applauded and sympathized with and wished well in all his thievery, and the house yelled with approval when the gentleman robber cleverly outwitted the officers of the law and made his escape. Most demoralizing, this play of "Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman," but most fascinating and sympathetic, nevertheless.

The Grand was well filled with one of Seattle's best audiences. The play proved a success from the start, hardly so much from any innate strength of its own as from the delightful art of Mr. Bellow and the careful and clever support given him by one of the best-balanced companies ever sent to the West in a dramatic play.

"Raffles" Is Stirring.

Raffles' career of crime is of a kind that stirs the blood and makes one fairly squirm in his seat with excitement over the ingenious deviltry and extraordinary daring of the criminal. "Sherlock Holmes" gave us a detective that could not be outwitted; this play shows us a thief who cannot be caught. There is also a detective in this play, and a mighty good one, though necessarily a little less acute than the felonious hero.

How the extraordinarily clever robbery of the Lady Melrose necklace is brought about and how the cracksman who "lifts" the precious bauble outwits the best detective in Scotland Yard time and again, and how, by a startling anticlimax, Raffles makes good his word, and his journey to the Never Never Land at the very finish of the play, are things that should be left untold in the play review in order that the joy of succeeding audiences may be as unalloyed as was that of the big gathering of last evening. But the verdict of approval on the play was probably as nearly unanimous as it ever can be on any theatrical offering.

Mr. Bellow's Impersonation.

Mr. Bellow presents the type of the perfect gentleman. Polished, suave, dignified but kindly, he is perfection in the character he assumes, and his subtle art, his musical voice, his handsome face and striking head of hair, of leonine brilliancy, give him both a distinguished stage appearance and the ready sympathy and admiration of all his hearers.

E. M. Holland, a veteran star, whose career on the American stage has included a number of notable impersonations, scores another striking success as the detective, Capt. Bedford. This is a counterpart of his old role in "Jim the Penman." Mr. Holland is a master of stage art, and his facial expressions and dry, crackling humor are wonderful to see and hear. Clara Blandick is sincere and natural as the heroine, and Beverley Sitgraves does strong character work as Mrs. Vidal. The other players are all capable enough, but beside the two stars they seem ordinary. The cast is not weak at any point, and it is the identical company which appeared with Mr. Bellow during his long runs at the Princess and Savoy Theatres in New York last season.

"Raffles" will be seen here for three more evenings and at the Saturday matinee. On Sunday night "The Wizard of Oz" starts.